

23 May 2019



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Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term Update

As this term draws to a close, I wanted to give you an update on some of the school activities and improvement initiatives that have been underway. We have had a very busy few weeks here at Landau Forte Academy Moorhead and it has been excellent to see pupils so happy and engaged in their learning as we rapidly approach the summer.

As many of you will know, we have had some new additions to our staff team this year, with our two new Assistant Principals, Mrs McNeil and Mr Cafferky, adding additional leadership capacity. They have all enjoyed a warm welcome and settled in well, getting to know pupils and parents across the school.

Early Years

Our Early Years pupils have made a very good start to the summer term, having settled into their temporary classrooms following the flood damage in February. Staff have done a brilliant job decorating their new environment and making sure there has been no disruption to the children's learning during this time.

We also welcomed representatives from the local authority to Moorhead to review our Early Years provision. Their comments were very positive, recognising in particular the new learning practices put in place and the level of engagement from the children within the setting.

Years 1 – 6

There has been some exciting learning across the school, including the launch of our 'Times Tables Rock Stars' this year to promote the importance of maths at Moorhead. This has seen pupils compete to see who can answer the most times tables each week. It has been a really enjoyable introduction to our school and as Principal I have been pleased to see the children thriving in the challenges and getting faster at their times tables.

Elsewhere in our school:

- In Years 1 and 2, pupils have been studying their Towers, Tunnels and Turrets topic using different subject areas. For example, in geography they have been locating famous castles and bridges around the world and in science, they have been using their investigation skills to discover what shapes and materials make the most effective structures.

- In Years 3 and 4, pupils have been working hard on their writing and reading comprehension skills as part of their Vikings topic. The children have been creating their own mystery stories based on dragons and mythical beasts, using Norse mythology as inspiration.
- In Years 5 and 6, pupils have been enjoying their topic on the Tudors. As well as learning lots of important facts about this time in history, they have experimented with recipes and costumes from the era and even received a visit from some 'real life Tudors'.

As some of you will know, we also hosted our very own pupil elections earlier this year. Children from each class had the opportunity to campaign to become their class representative, voted for by their peers. The pupil council now meets every week to help make decisions about their school. Their views have already led to some positive changes in how we organise lunch at Moorhead, including providing new games equipment so that pupils can stay active and play together during their break time.

Year 6 SATS

This half-term, our Year 6s completed their SATs exams after much preparation and hard work. We were very pleased by how well they each behaved and their positive attitudes towards the exam process. Congratulations to all of those pupils – we look forward to celebrating their last couple of months with us before they move onto their new schools in September.

Ofsted Visit

In March, we received a further visit from Ofsted Inspectors. While they again recognised the school improvement work underway across Moorhead and everyone's efforts to strengthen teaching and learning, they did not see enough impact to change our overall judgement from inadequate.

There have been further improvement measures put in place since Easter – including the additional capacity provided by our new Assistant Principals – which we know is quickly adding value. We are also working closely with the leadership team at Landau Forte College Derby. Staff are working incredibly hard to keep this momentum going ahead of the summer and into the next academic year.

What is clear to us is that we now have the right team and support in place to deliver what is needed, and will be fully staffed for September. The past couple of years have obviously been a challenging time for the school but we are continuing to move forward at pace so that Moorhead becomes the excellent school we know it has the potential to be. We would like to thank you all for your patience, understanding and support as we work hard to achieve this.

If you have any questions, as always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. May I wish you a very enjoyable holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Beardmore
Headteacher